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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,931	03/25/2004	William W. Moses	LBNL-214US1	6409
7590	07/01/2005		EXAMINER	
Steven M. War			LE, QUE TAN	
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI LLP				
801 Pennsylvania Avenue NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Washington, DC 20004-2623			2878	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/809,931	MOSES ET AL.
	Examiner Que T. Le	Art Unit 2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 35-54 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 38-43 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 35-37 and 44-54 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

This is in response to Applicants' amendment filed May 2, 2005.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: A correct Information/data should be filled in the blank on page 1 of the present specification. Also, in claim 51, on line 4, "means for" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 38-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The newly added citation of claim 38 directs to the method step of providing "a multiplexer selection signal to a multiplexer stage wherein said digital control section uses said channel identification to generate said multiplexer selection signal and said multiplexer selection signal is used by said multiplexer stage to pass said maximum amplitude input signal to said output" contains new matter because there is no such teaching and/or discussion being found in the present specification. Also, the present specification fails to provide an adequate teaching and/or discussion regarding suppressing manner of "digital noise" as now being recited in the claim 43.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 35-37 and 44-54 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 31-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,627. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claimed invention, claims 35-37 and 44-54, of the present application is similar to the claimed invention, claims 31-34, of the above identified U.S. Patent with similar intended scope. Although the terminologies used to describe and/or state method steps of the claimed invention, claims 35-37 and 44-54, are not exactly the same as that of the claimed invention, claims 31-34, of the U.S. Patent, the operation and/or performances by the claimed method steps are obviously encompassed in the intended results performed by the multiple method steps claimed in claims 31-34 of the above identified U.S. Patent.

Claims 38-43 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art fails to teach a method of identifying a maximum amplitude input signal within a plurality of

analog input signals, among other features, comprising the steps of generating a channel identification from an amplitude sensing stage corresponding to the maximum amplitude input signal, of a plurality of analog input signals, which is the highest amplitude signal; and providing a multiplexer selection signal to a multiplexer stage so that to pass the maximum amplitude signal to the output, wherein the multiplexer selection signal is generated from the use of the channel identification by a digital control selection.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 35-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's submission of the requirements for the joint research agreement prior art exclusion under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) on May 2, 2005 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection under 37 CFR 1.109(b) presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.02(l)(3). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

I) Budnik 5,778,307 discloses an amplifier system having a plurality of multiplexers with a control circuit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Que T. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2438.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta, can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Que T. Le

Primary Examiner